



U. S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**DRUG DEALER SENTENCED**

Maxwell Wood, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia, announced today that **Michael Williams**, age 46, formerly of Valdosta and Adel was sentenced after a four day jury trial, on Conspiracy to Possess Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, Felon in Possession of Firearms, and Money Laundering and Structuring.

**Williams** was sentenced to 425 months imprisonment and a \$1,300.00 mandatory assessment fee. There is no parole in the federal system.

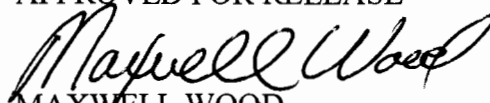
The investigation disclosed that **Williams** distributed nearly a kilogram of cocaine per week in the greater Valdosta area from late 1998 until September of 2003. Analysis of a variety of bank and business records indicated a cash flow exceeding \$400,000 between 1999 and 2002. In order to launder these funds, **Williams** placed cash in a number of accounts, then converted that cash to cashier's checks which were then used to purchase Certificates of Deposit, vehicles and other property, often in the name of third party nominees. In March of 2000, **Williams** purchased a home in Adel, Georgia using \$100,000 in CD's and approximately \$18,000 in cash and bank checks. In late September of 2003, agents discovered and searched a storage unit **Williams** had rented using a false name, address and social security number. Inside that unit, agents found over 2 kilograms of cocaine, two loaded handguns, \$6600 in cash, electronic scales and plastic bags.

After the conviction, the matter of criminal forfeiture was submitted to the jury. The jury found that **Williams** should forfeit his interest in the house in Adel as well as \$184,395.99 representing proceeds of his cocaine trafficking and property involved in the money laundering offenses.

The case was a joint investigative effort led by Special Agent Bradley Luker, Internal Revenue Service, along with the South Georgia Drug Task Force. Assistant United States Attorney Don Johstono prosecuted the case for the government.

Questions concerning this matter should be directed to Sue McKinney, Media Contact, United States Attorneys Office, at (478) 621-2602.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

  
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